

Sermons and Slums: Reforming the Irish, a Case Study in Ante-bellum Reform

Bailey; Chapters 14-15

Supplement: TBA

What intentions and assumptions underlay urban reformers of the mid-19th century? To what extent was the desire to uplift the Irish an extension of Jacksonian ideals? To what extent was it a departure from Jacksonian ideals?

Identifications:

Second Great Awakening, revival, camp meeting, evangelism, Charles Finney “push” and “pull” factors in immigration, great potato famine, Five Points, Lowell mills, paternalism, panic of 1837, the saloon

Homework Questions:

1. What was the Second Great Awakening? What led to its rise?
2. In what sense does the Second Great Awakening promote the ideals of Jacksonian Democracy? In what sense does it depart from them?
3. What concrete forms did the revival take? What distinguished the religious practices of revivalists from those of more mainstream Protestant believers?
4. What countries were the main sources of immigration to the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century? What conditions in the United States attracted such an influx of immigration?
5. How did the rise in immigration of the mid-19th century affect the characteristics of American urban life?
6. How did the entrance of Irish and German immigrants into the American work force reflect and cause changes in the character of the American working class? What challenges did Irish laborers face in their transition to the American industrial work force?
7. What was the significance of the saloon in the lives of the Irish-American working class?
8. How were the Irish perceived by the “native” American public? How do Evangelical Protestant reformers explain poverty? How do they use religion as a means of reform, uplift, social control? Why do they focus on temperance as a means of reform?